

CLAIMS TO KNOW ESMOND KILLER; ARRESTED

FRED WILHELM, WEST SIDE GROCCER KILLED BY AUTO

DOUBLE SORROW LEAVES
FAMILY ENVELOPED
IN GRIEF

WIFE'S MOTHER DIES

VICTIM OF TRAGEDY LIVED
TWELVE HOURS FOLLOWING
ACCIDENT WITHOUT REGAIN-
ING CONSCIOUSNESS—DOUBLE
FUNERAL TOMORROW.

Grim death and tragedy stalked yuletide joys into the Fred Wilhelm home on West Madison street and today the family is grief stricken over a double sorrow visited upon them at this time of yuletide fetes. Mr. Wilhelm, one of the city's best known merchants, died this morning, of injuries received last night when he was run down and fatally injured by an auto driven by William Bozeman, Main street second hand dealer.

Christmas morning Mrs. Kristen Thorson, mother of Mrs. Wilhelm, died at the daughter's residence. Today arrangements are being made for the double funeral which will be held tomorrow.

Mr. Wilhelm's death occurred at 7:45 o'clock today at the city hospital, whither he had been rushed after being knocked to the pavement unconscious by the Bozeman Ford touring car. The accident which resulted in his fatal injuries occurred at 7:45 last night at the corner of Lafayette and Chestnut streets. Mrs. Thorson's passing occurred yesterday morning after a long illness.

The tragedy which took the life of Mr. Wilhelm resulted while Bozeman, who had been at the Rock Island station to take a sister to the train, was returning to his residence on Pine street. Mr. Bozeman said that when he arrived at the corner of Chestnut and Lafayette streets he was traveling north on Chestnut. He slowed up his car and looked each way before attempting to cross the street. Then he noticed coming from the southwest corner of Shabbona park two men who were cutting across the street. He started to drive his machine past the intersection when the two men stepped into the rays from his lights and stood stark still. Knowing if he kept on straight he would hit the man, Bozeman made a swing to pass in the rear of the pedestrians but one man jumped back when the Ford was only a few inches from him. In stepping back the man who later proved to be the groceryman, placed himself directly in the path of the oncoming machine and before the driver could bring the car to a stop it knocked him down and partially passed over his body.

Bozeman slammed on the brakes and jumped out of the car to see what had happened. In a few minutes a crowd congregated and with the aid of a couple bystanders he pulled the unconscious man from under the machine. He was examined by some bystanders who said they thought he was just stunned but when it was apparent that he was unconscious he was rushed to the hospital. In his statement Bozeman declared he went to the hospital for an hour and waited to hear the result of the accident and last night word was sent out that there was hopes for Mr. Wilhelm's recovery. When this word went out Bozeman left the hospital and went home where he remained until this morning when he heard of Mr. Wilhelm's death he went to Chief Ford and gave the preceding story of the tragedy.

Son Conducts Quiz.
According to Roy Wilhelm, son of the deceased, and Ottawa attorney, his father was not with any one he knew at the time of the accident. He declares that if there was a friend with his father they must have met on the street and he was walking together for a short distance. Endeavors to find the man who was with Mr. Wilhelm have proved fruitless. If neither the man whom Bozeman missed so closely when he hit Wilhelm and the woman are found there will be no living eyewitness to the tragedy but Bozeman, who was driving the Ford car.

The dead man had very poor eyes as the result of a gun powder explosion which happened about ten years ago. It is thought that with his defective sight he did not realize where he was going and the bright lights of the car together with this infirmity caused him to step into the path of the coming car which resulted in his injury and death.

MAN CHARGED WITH RACING FROM SCENE OF CRASH ARRESTED

SHERIFF HOLDS AUTO DRIVER
ACCUSED OF WRECKING BUGGY
AND LEAVING SCENE WITHOUT
REVEALING HIS IDENTITY.

Smashing into a buggy, wrecking it and leaving the driver sprawled out in the road amidst a pile of wreckage was the trick charged by the police to John Osborne, a resident of Streator. The police further claim Osborne tried to get away after the accident which occurred about 9 o'clock Saturday night on the Illinois river bridge. The buggy was being driven by George Martin.

According to Osborne, who was driving his Ford roadster from Streator to Ottawa, he tried to pass an auto and get out of the way of the street car at the same time when he crashed into the buggy. No reason was given to the police for his failing to stop after the collision.

An occupant of the street car secured the license number of the car and reported it to Martin, who secured a warrant for the arrest of Osborne. Sheriff Welter and Deputy Chief Ryan went to Streator and arrested Osborne. However, he was not locked up due to the fact his father put up a bond for his appearance at the coming hearing today.

It is alleged by the officers that Osborne was intoxicated and was driving his machine in a very reckless manner.

Born in Switzerland.

Fred Wilhelm, who met so tragic an ending, was born in Gertzein, in Switzerland, six miles from Berne, Jan. 2, 1861. Until he was 19 years old he worked in his father's watch factory, learning the watch making trade. When his father died, instead of continuing the business of his parent he came to America in the latter part of 1879.

In America he first resided in Massillon, O., where he learned the potter's trade. Shortly after he left Massillon and came to Ottawa and began work in the local pottery which closed down about thirty years ago. When the pottery closed down he obtained employment in the Godfrey grocery and later with the Gebhardt grocery. In 1901 he ceased working for others and embarked in the grocery business for himself at 600 West Madison street. He conducted the business up to the time of his death.

To mourn his tragic passing the deceased leaves his wife, Mabel, and three sons, Arnold, Roy and Taylor, all of Ottawa. He also leaves one brother, Albert Wilhelm, of Orville, O.

The funeral services will be held from the family home, 600 West Madison street, Thursday afternoon, but the time has not been set. Burial will be made in the Ottawa avenue cemetery and all friends are requested to omit flowers.

Mrs. Kristen Thorson.
Mrs. Kristen Thorson was born in Stavanger, Norway, Aug. 15, 1841, coming to this country with her husband in 1865. When she came to this country she made her home with her husband, Jens, on a farm on the Plank Road for many years. They lived together on the one farm until August, 1895, when death parted them. She came to Ottawa and resided with her daughter, Mrs. Mabel Wilhelm, until yesterday morning, when death took her at about 7 o'clock. Her death was attributed to a complication of diseases.

Surviving she leaves: Thos Thorson, of Los Angeles, Cal.; Jens, of Stavanger; Mrs. Jessie Anderson, of Palmerston, New Zealand; Mrs. Josie Ring, of Seattle, Wash.; John, of Armstrong, Ia.; Gus, of Detroit, Mich.; Mrs. Gertrude White, of Chicago; Sherman, and Mrs. Fred Wilhelm, of Ottawa.

She also leaves thirty-two grandchildren and one great grandchild.

The funeral which will be private will be held at the home Wednesday afternoon and at the Freedom Lutheran church at 3 o'clock. It is requested that all flowers be omitted.

HIGH HOPES FOR THE BABY



LUDWIG H. MAASS, OLD RESIDENT OF COUNTY, EXPIRES

DEATH ENDS CAREER OF MAN
WHO CAME TO OTTAWA IN 1866
—DEATH OCCURRED ON FARM
SUNDAY MORNING.

Ludwig H. Maass, 80 years old, passed away at his home on the Bloomington road at about 1:30 Sunday morning. His death was attributed to a complication of diseases of which he has been suffering for the last few weeks.

The deceased was born in Hall province, Pommern, Germany, June 3, 1843, and came to America after his marriage to Marie Hannerman, at Auklen, Germany, on May 10, 1866. They came to Chicago, where they resided for two years, coming to Ottawa in 1869. They resided here until 1884, during which time Mr. Maass moved on a farm near Ottawa. He was engaged in the tailoring business. 1884 with his family Mr. Maass took up farming. He retired in 1905.

His wife preceded him in death three years ago and to mourn his death he leaves five children. The children are: Mrs. Martin Olson, Marselles; Mrs. William Schuette, Brookfield; Otto, Herman and Peter J. Maass of South Ottawa.

Surviving are ten grandchildren: Herman and Alma Olson; Harriet Pussey; Marie, Martin, Helen, Lester, Gertrude, Harriette, Gilbert and Harold Maass. He also leaves the following great grandchildren: Herman Maass, Robert and Edward Olson and Otto and William Martin.

The funeral was held this afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Mrs. Emma Cooley.
Mrs. Emma Cooley, aged 83 years, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Isaiah Strawn, who resided for many years west of Ottawa, on the Bluff was brought to Ottawa for burial, at her home in Chicago. The body road, passed away Saturday morning and funeral services were held this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. Burial was made in the family lot in the Ottawa avenue cemetery.

Mrs. Cooley was born in the Strawn farm west of Ottawa, and was a member of a prominent La Salle county pioneer family. She is well known to most of the older residents of the city, but has made her home in Chicago for seven years.

Her husband, the late M. V. Cooley passed away several years ago.

Surviving she leaves three sisters and one brother. She was a sister of Mrs. Mary Strawn, 707 West Main street.

Mass, July 31, 1876, coming to Ottawa many years ago. He lived and worked in and about this city most of his life.

To mourn his passing he leaves his wife and two daughters, Mrs. George Crank and Mae O'Brien, and also a sister of Harvard, Mass.

The funeral will be held from the home, 411 East Norris street, and thence to St. Columba's church, where a high mass will be sung at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. Interment will be made in St. Columba's cemetery.

MURDERS LOVER AND THEN PHONES POLICE
Louisville, Ky., Dec. 26.—A woman's story of a quarrel, a shot and her vigil from dusk to dawn over the body of the man she killed was being checked up by police department investigators here today.

"I killed my friend," Mrs. Olive L. Jones, 32, pretty divorcee, announced when she entered police headquarters Monday. She was disheveled, and hysterical. The men on duty discounted her statement.

"Oh, he's dead; I shot him; you'll find him out there on the floor. I left him covered up with his own overcoat. I know he's dead. He hasn't moved for hours," she declared.

This was the first intimation officials had that O. L. Black, sales manager for a Louisville automobile company, had been shot to death late Sunday afternoon in Mrs. Jones' apartment. Mrs. Jones said she fired in self defense.

RAID ON ZIRKEL SOFT DRINK PARLOR FAILS TO REVEAL ANY BOOZE
A Christmas raid conducted last night by Sheriff E. J. Welter at the George Zirkel soft drink parlor, 423 West Madison street, last night, proved fruitless, when the authorities were unable to find any trace of a violation of the search and seizure laws. The building was searched thoroughly, but no liquors of any sort could be obtained.

C. O. & P. SMASHES CAR: UTICA GIRL INJURED
La Salle, Dec. 26.—(Special.)—Miss Florence Lewniczak, a Utica girl, and three others, in a car owned and driven by a Serena farmer, whose name could not be learned, were slightly injured and badly frightened at 12:30 Saturday night when the auto in which they were riding was wrecked in a collision with a C. O. & P. car on First street, this city. Miss Lewniczak was cut by flying glass.

BOOTLEGGER WORKED IN CAPITOL BUILDING
Washington, Dec. 26.—The drive to keep bootleggers out of the capitol building severed from the government pay roll today a negro waiter said by senate officials to have dropped a flask of whiskey on the floor of the public dining room of the senate restaurant. A mop speedily wiped away the evidence.

DERRICK AND WRECK CREWS KEPT BUSY ON DIMMICK HILL

SCORE OF MINOR ACCIDENTS OCCUR AT DANGEROUS GRADE—ONE AUTO TURNS TURTLE PINNING THREE BENEATH IT.

Dimmick Hill was the usual old hot bed of trouble for the unwary as well as cautious motorists over the weekend. While only two wrecks were brought to the local garages, many minor repair jobs were made on the hill by the garage company and many wrecks went to La Salle.

It was a continual string of accidents all day Sunday and Monday on the hill with some one in trouble hourly. However, although the wreckers were kept busy there was no serious accident with any one hurt.

Three Pinned Under Car.
The first call for the Conde Wrecker was midnight Saturday when a Ford roadster containing three young men, the driver of the car said to be John Mitchell, of Joliet, turned turtle at the first turn and were pinned under the car until passing motorists released them. None of the occupants of the car suffered serious injuries outside of a few scratches, but the car was badly wrecked.

Late last night a Velle, owned and driven by one of the Mutter brothers, proprietors of the Chicago Butcher's Meat Market, became mixed up with other cars, with the result their auto hit the fence and was considerably damaged.

According to a story told by one motorist who happened to be passing the Dimmick Hill way, the other day, no autoists in this locality slow up on Dimmick Hill regardless of how carefully they drive since the Esmond shooting. It has been necessary by the garagemen to resort to all kinds of methods to stop the autoists from crashing into other wrecks due to this atrocious crime.

When a flagman attempts to stop the cars on Dimmick now, while a wreck is being cleared away, he is confronted with all kinds of trouble for the traveling public seem to care more to take a chance at speeding down the hill than getting shot.

A Studebaker touring car owned by John F. Mitchell of Post street and driven by his daughter, Susan, collided with an Overland sedan, owned and driven by Henry Wiebrock, 549 Jefferson street about 10 o'clock. Westbrook was going west on Madison st. and was turning onto La Salle street, while the Mitchell car was coming north on La Salle street.

Just as the Overland was about to turn the big Studebaker crashed into it and smashed in the front of the car and wrecked the front wheels and axle. The Studebaker was only slightly damaged.

PERU POLICE NAB YOUTH ON WAY TO RAILWAY STATION

Peru, Dec. 26.—(Special.)—Walter F. Lopatka, aged 21, of Peru, was placed under arrest today for an investigation in connection with the Esmond murder case. This was the first formal arrest that has been made in the case.

ARREST PROWLER WHO INTIMIDATED HOSPITAL NURSES

James Glynn, 45 years old, was arrested Sunday night at the corner of Main and Walker streets by Captain Fox and Officer Duckworth charged with prowling around the nurses' home on Clinton street and trying to hold up one nurse in one of the dark halls with a demand for \$35. Glynn is not a resident of Ottawa, having come here only a short while ago and is staying at the Harrison house.

Glynn has been prowling around the home almost continually for the last couple of weeks, terrorizing the nurses at the hospital. The police have been working on the case and nearly nabbed Glynn Saturday night when he tried to intimidate the nurse. The man has been seen in the upper corridors and has held the nurses in fear of him continuously.

Saturday night the police were called but the man of mystery had vanished and they were unable to locate him.

Sunday about 8:30 the police were called but they arrived a little late but the arm of the law proved long and Glynn was arrested on Main and Walker streets and taken to the station where he is now a prisoner.

It is thought that the man is mentally unbalanced and if this is true it is probable that he will be placed in a state institution.

DEMANDS MONEY OF STUDENT—FLEES BUT IS CAPTURED BY POLICE AND LOCKED UP.
Throughout the Christmas holiday season, the La Salle county officials worked unceasingly on the Esmond murder case, without reaching any solution to the baffling situation up to today.

Following a prolonged questioning on Saturday and Sunday night, Ernest Ashley, one of the men who found the body, and his alleged common law wife, Mrs. Alice Ashley, were placed under arrest and locked in the county jail on a charge of living in open adultery. Warrants for the arrest of the two were signed by Sheriff E. J. Welter.

In spite of the vehement denials of the county officials that the pair were held on any connection with the Esmond case, wild rumors connecting the names of the couple with the case spread through the county late Saturday and grew in proportions over Sunday and Monday. Officials branded these rumors as unfounded on every hand, but were unable to keep them from spreading like wild fire through the county.

Sticks To Story.
This morning they stated that in spite of frequent questionings which occurred both before and after Ashley as taken to the county jail, he had not varied in his testimony given at the coroner's inquest, nor had he made any statements that would throw any additional light on the baffling affair.

Ashley's mother from Peoria visited him on Friday. She left Ottawa on the 2:20 A. M. train for home on Saturday morning. The officials questioned her, and it is said, extracted information which led them to believe that Ashley and Mrs. Alice Ashley were living together without benefit of clergy.

Woman Questioned.
Early Saturday afternoon Mrs. Ashley was called into the State's Attorney's office for a questioning. The investigation was conducted behind closed doors. It is alleged that she confessed to the authorities while in the State's Attorney's office that she and Ernest Ashley had never been united in lawful wedlock, and that she was just his common law wife.

She was taken in charge on a warrant secured by Sheriff Welter for this alleged offense, and was given a cell at the county jail. Ashley was then summoned to the State's Attorney's office. He too is alleged to have admitted to the authorities that he was not married.

A further check was then made on the story of the murder, as told by Ashley, but it is claimed no additional light was shed on the matter. He was placed in jail late Saturday night where he was held until today, when arrangements were made for giving both him and Mrs. Ashley a hearing.

The couple are alleged to have confided to the officials that they have been living together for six months. Parental objections on both sides is said to have been responsible for their living together without first going thru a marriage ceremony.

They both are natives of Peoria, but have been living for six months in Chicago. Three weeks ago they came to Ottawa, and rented an apartment in the Burrows flats, where they have been residing since.

Blame Parental Objections.
Mrs. Ashley is understood to be twenty-two years of age, and Mr. Ashley is twenty-two. Ashley made arrangements to have a Peoria attorney represent him at the hearing today.

Ashley was in the first car to reach the scene of the murder after the crime occurred. He was riding with Joseph Gaudi of Marselles, who picked him up down the road, near the Green Rock Inn, when he met him on foot. Ashley had left the Holland furnace truck he was driving at the Harbeck farm, when he said it ran out of gas, and started on to town on foot.

Officials Work Tirelessly.
Today Ashley was taken to the state's attorney's office and was again questioned thoroughly in connection with the case.

90 Days.
Chris Brown of Peru, was placed in the County Jail this afternoon to serve a ninety day sentence on a charge of drunkenness. Brown was given his sentence by a Peru justice of the peace.

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